YOU HIGURI

SEIMADEN

6

CARLSEN COMICS

SEIMADEN

Rod, the Leader of Azel, is being tortured by his fate. Karoun, a beautiful and mysterious boy, appears unexpectedly and brings bewilderment into the events. What might his goals be? The Demon Lord Laures makes a serious decision, to save the fatally ill Hilda...

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CARLSEN COMICS
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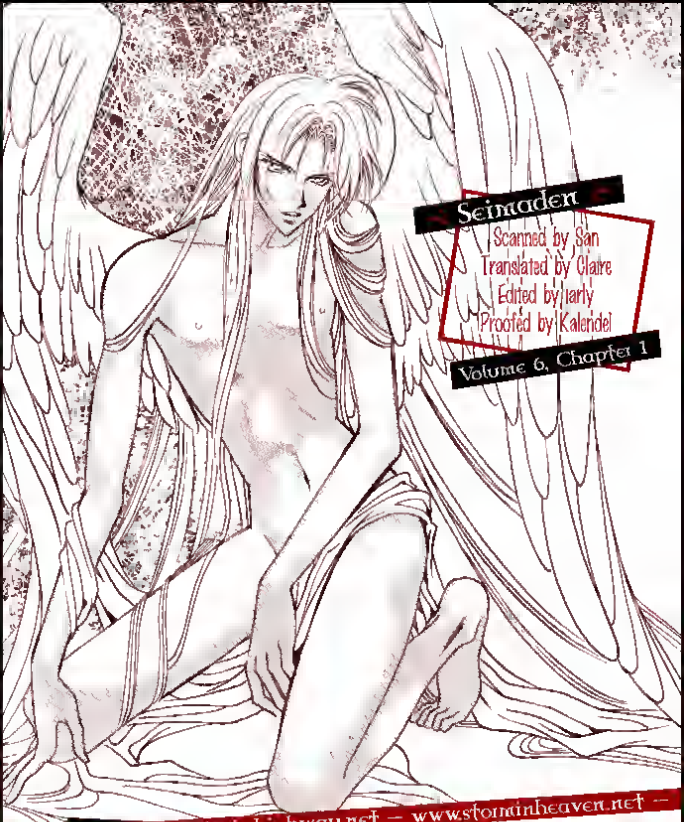

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STORM IN HEAVEN
&
Selene Scans

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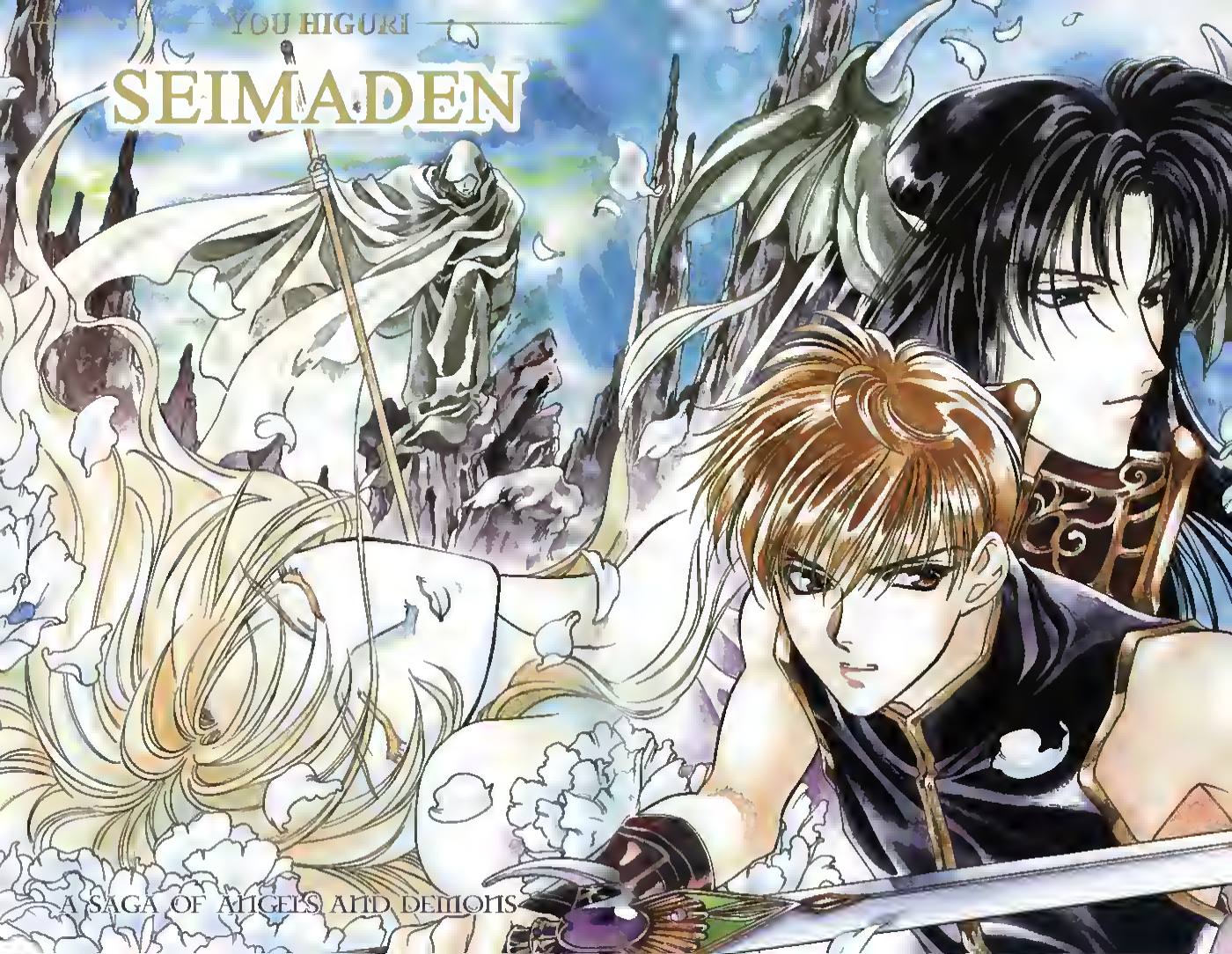
YOU HIGURI
SEIMAIDEN
A foreboding wind cuts heaven and earth.
Light trampled over the unmerciful dark.
Look. The moon wrenches the body.
The sun shakes regretful feelings.
Look. Is he the Messiah?
Look. That form is not a deceit...?

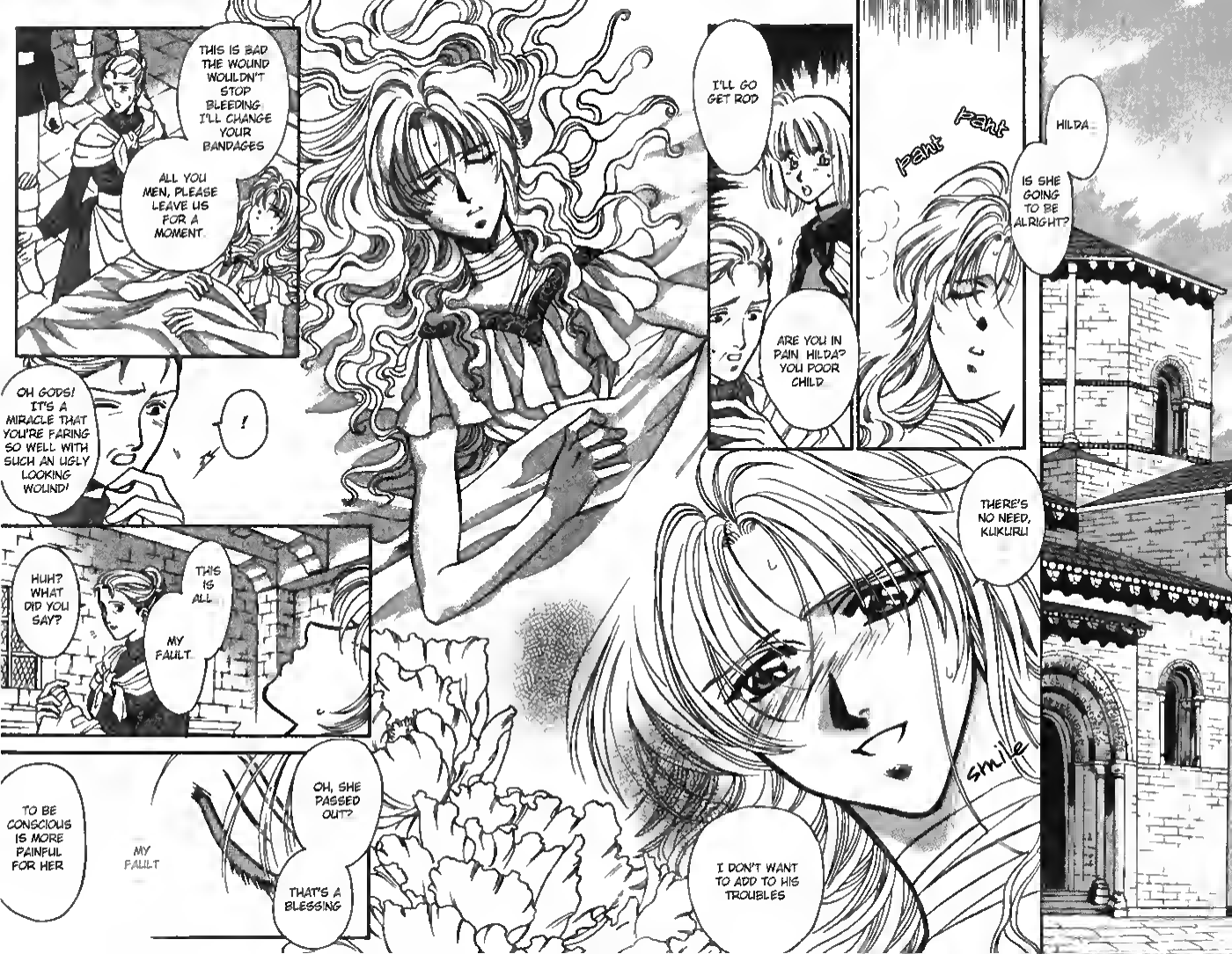

YOU HIGURI
SEIMADEN
A SAGA OF ANGELS AND DEMONS

GRRR
OOO
NNNNN

BOOM
WHAM
Eyah!
PIKI?!
HU
WHAT THE HELL? WHAT HAPPENED?
OUCH!

I THINK SOMETHING LANDED OVER THERE. LET'S GO AND HAVE A LOOK, PIKI!
PIKI.
PIII PIKI PIII!
YOU DON'T THINK I SHOULD GO BECAUSE IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS?
DON'T WORRY I MIGHT LOOK FRAIL, BUT...
OH!
SIJJJ
gulp

Glow
WOW, WHAT AN UNBELIEVABLY GORGEOUS HUNK...
HE FITS THE DESCRIPTION OF THE MAN OF MY DREAMS PERFECTLY!


HILDA...
IS SHE GOING TO BE ALRIGHT?
pant
pant
I'LL GO GET ROD
ARE YOU IN PAIN HILDA? YOU POOR CHILD
THIS IS BAD THE WOUND WOULDN'T STOP BLEEDING. I'LL CHANGE YOUR BANDAGES
ALL YOU MEN, PLEASE LEAVE US FOR A MOMENT.
!
OH GODS! IT'S A MIRACLE THAT YOU'RE FARING SO WELL WITH SUCH AN UGLY LOOKING WOUND!
THERE'S NO NEED, KUKURU
smile
HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.
I DON'T WANT TO ADD TO HIS TROUBLES
OH, SHE PASSED OUT?
THAT'S A BLESSING
TO BE CONSCIOUS IS MORE PAINFUL FOR HER
MY FAULT

MY FEVERED BODY WORKS TOGETHER TO ALLOW THOSE DREAMS TO REPLAY IN MY MIND WITHOUT END
THE DULLING AND CONFUSION OF MY SENSES
OVER AND OVER AGAIN
THE FREQUENT AND REPEATED
NIGHTMARE
ZSS
SOMEONE
SOMEONE HELP ME...
I CAN'T TAKE THIS
HELP ME...

THIS IS MY MUCH-DESERVED RETRIBUTION
I WAS THE ONE WHO COULDN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN ROD AND LAURES

FOAAA
THIS IS...?
LIGHT... I FEEL THE TOUCH OF A LIGHT.
THE PAIN IS SLOWLY EASING.
NNNN

ROD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, AZEL'S LEADER?
MARU-KA.
clatter
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE PRAYING IN THE TEMPLE?
DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, ROD.

I UNDERSTAND!
BUT DESPITE IT, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER TO FEND FOR HERSELF.
I CAN'T BEAR SEEING HER IN SO MUCH PAIN!
YOU ARE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. YOU CANNOT ALLOW PERSONAL FEELINGS TO AFFECT YOU!
THE POWER YOU POSSESS WAS BESTOWED UPON YOU FROM MY FATHER KAIMEL TO BE USED FOR REDEEMING THE PEOPLE AND TO GUARD THIS WORLD FROM DANGER!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AWARE OF THAT FACT A LONG TIME AGO.
CAN IT BE THAT HE HASN'T COMPLETELY MERGED WITH KAIMEI YET?
AH.
THAT'S LORD AZEL!
LORD AZEL'S MADE AN APPEARANCE!
YAUP YAUP
OH? THEN COME WITH ME
!

LORD AZEL!
LORD AZEL!
PLEASE HELP US,
I BEG YOU!
LORD AZEL,
MY CHILD IS SICK THE DOCTORS HAVE ALREADY GIVEN UP...
PLEASE LEND US A HELPING HAND.
OUR FATHER WAS KILLED BY A DEMON PLEASE AVENGE HIM FOR US!
I BEG YOU
TO GIVE HIM STRENGTH,
TO GIVE HIM THE PROTECTION OF AZEL'S GOD
THE PEOPLE'S SALVATION THE PEOPLE'S PASSION

THE PRESENT IS SO CHAOTIC, DO YOU KNOW WHY?
IT IS BECAUSE IT LACKS A SUPREME RULER.
EVEN IF YOU CAN SAVE THAT WOMAN, WHEN CONFRONTED WITH SUCH A LARGE NUMBER, CAN YOU SAVE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM?
THE PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS
YOU HAVE ACCEPTED KAIMEI'S SOUL
NOW IS THE TIME YOU SHOULD PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE
NEVER DERAIL THROUGH MY ENTIRE BODY.
THINK ABOUT WHY YOU NEEDED "POWER"!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO, RULE SUPREME TO GRANT THE WISH OF MORTALS
FOR EVERLASTING PEACE
HY RULER S NEEDED THAT,S BECAUSE
THEY NEED A RULER!
JERK

REALLY THE...!
AAAH...
IS THIS REALLY THE CORRECT WAY?
CRACK
GRGH...
RABI'
IT IS BETTER THIS WAY SINCE THE WEAK ARE FATED TO BE ENSLAVED BY THE STRONG ANYWAY!!
BETTER THIS WAY—
IS THIS ...
TO RULE OVER EVERYTHING?
!
QUICKLY OPEN YOUR BODY TO ME ROD
SURRENDER YOUR WILL SURRENDER YOUR SOUL TO I, KAIMEI!
ONLY BY DOING THIS CAN YOU RISE TO BECOME AN UNRIVALED RULER!
BEFORE LONG, THEY SHOULD BE COMPLETELY MERGED INTO ONE, AND ROD'S SELF SHOULD CEASE TO EXIST
Uuaaaaaah!

WATCH THE WAY IN WHICH YOU SPEAK IN MY PRESENCE, KUKURU!
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD KNOW THE REASON, SO...
I SAID I AM THE PRIESTESS OF AZEL. I EXPECT YOU TO SPEAK TO ME IN A MORE RESPECTFUL TONE!
HUH?
ROD IS ACTING SO STRANGE, HE'S SHUT HIMSELF ALONE IN HIS ROOM.
SOMETIMES I HEAR HIM MOAN AS IF IN PAIN
ROD IS UNDERGOING THE TEST TO BECOME A GOD!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
IT IS FUTILE TO RUN AWAY,
BECAUSE I AM YOU!

slide
I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY
stagger
I JUST WANTED SOME TIME TO MYSELF TO THINK
!
pant
JUST A COUPLE OF MOMENTS MORE, THAT'S ALL I NEED
flops

THIS IS NOT ME
THE UNFAMILIAR FACE REFLECTED IN THE WATER
OH!
WHO'S THERE?

OH,
MY APOLOGIES! I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE ANYBODY AROUND
ON A NIGHT
WHEN THE MOON SHINES SO RADIANTLY
ON PURPOSE?
ONE SHOULD NEVER WATCH THEIR REFLECTION IN A LAKE
WIPE

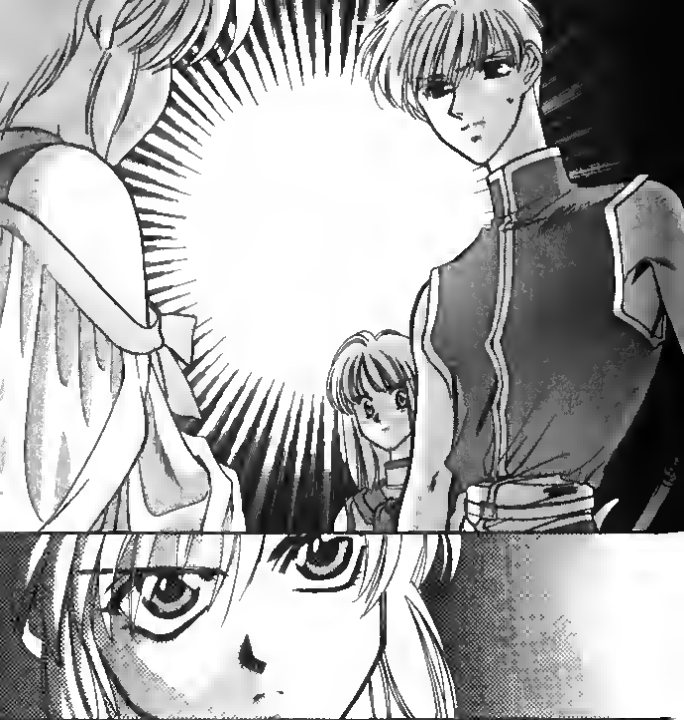
IT IS SAID THAT YOU WOULD SEE CREATURES THAT WILL BRING ILL FORTUNE THAT WAY.
smile
IT IS A FOLKLORE FROM MY LAND.
WHAT AN AMAZING AURA...!
PLATSCH
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?
YOU ARE THE LEADER AZEL, THE ONE CALLED ROD?

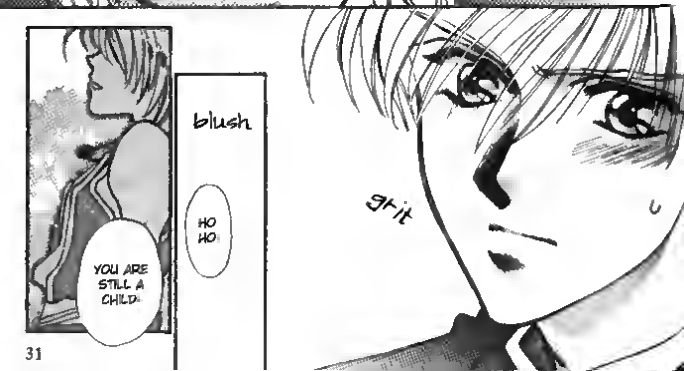
YOUR TURMOIL IS WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO FAMOUS.
AROUND HERE, THERE ISN'T A SINGLE PERSON WHO DOESN'T KNOW OF YOU.
WHY DOES SAVING PEOPLE BRING SUCH PAIN TO YOU?
I WONDER
WHERE YOUR SAVIOR IS?
!

I'VE NEVER WANTED TO BE RESCUED.
YOU POOR THING, YOU'VE HAD THESE IDEAS FED INTO YOU BY OTHERS ALL THIS WHILE
NOT LIKE I WOULD WANT ONE ANYWAY
WHERE WOULD HE COME FROM?
HOW ABSURD
MY SAVIOR?
WE SHALL MEET AGAIN, ROD.
HUGH
NO WAY...
!

I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT TIME.
WHEN YOU NEED ME.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE EXPRESSED PITY TOWARDS ME...
WEIRDO
I FORGOT TO ASK HIM HIS NAME

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, ROD? THERE'S BAD NEWS!
HILDA'S CONDITION HAS TAKEN A BAD TURN...
!
!
I UNDER STAND!
HURRY AND GO SEE HER! I CAN'T STAND WATCHING HER ANYMORE




blush
HO HO
YOU ARE STILL A CHILD
grit

OKAY
LET'S GO KUKURU
LOOKS LIKE WE CAN BECOME VERY GOOD FRIENDS
HOWEVER, ROD
IF IT WAS ME...
I'D BE ABLE TO SAVE YOU...

KILDA...
GASP
HUFF

FOAAA
HOW CAN I BE THE SAVIOR IF I CANNOT EVEN SAVE THE LIFE OF THE GIRL I LOVE?
RO... D?

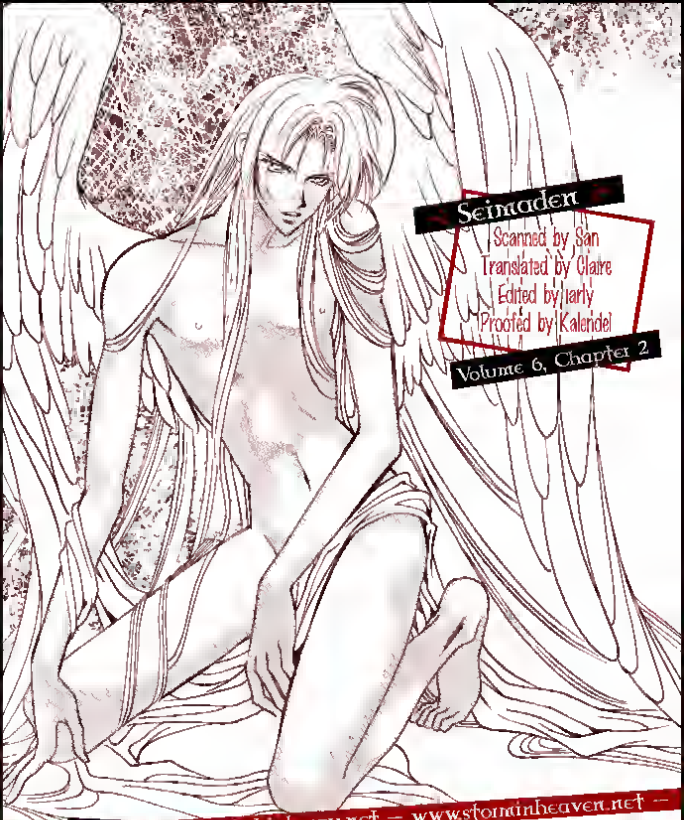
DON'T GO WORRYING ABOUT ANYTHING, HAVE A GOOD REST!
I'LL PROTECT YOU
PROTECT
THIS IS
WHAT'S THIS IMAGE?

I...
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS MY LOST MEMORY OF THE PAST...
I REMEMBER EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU NOW...
...!
WE WERE SO CLOSE, LIKE A PAIR OF LITTLE BIRDS
NEVER LE...VING THE OTHER'S SIDE.
ZZZZZ...

IT'S A MIRACLE THE COLOR HAS RETURNED TO HILDA'S CHEEKS
AND HER BREATHING IS STEADIER

YOU ARE REALLY A BIG FOOL, ROD!
YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT TO USE YOUR POWERS TO HEAL OTHERS MEANS THAT YOU BEAR THE PAIN FOR THEM
ARE YOU OKAY, ROD?
dizzy

HILDA!!
I, WHO CAN ONLY WATCH AND FRET BY YOUR SIDE, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BEAR IT ANYMORE!
QUICKLY! LET KAIME REPLACE YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
OTHERWISE,
WHAT SHOULD I DO?



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I'M SORRY I'M WORRYING YOU SO MUCH.
YOU LOOK SO MUCH BETTER TODAY, HILDA
WANT TO HAVE SOME SOUP?
LAST NIGHT
I WAS ENVELOPED BY A VERY WARM LIGHT
OH
WHERE IS ROD?
OH YOU CAN'T GET UP YET YOU HAVEN'T RECOVERED FROM YOUR INJURY!
HE'S REALLY SUCH A BUSY PERSON.
HE SEEMS TO HAVE SOMETHING URGENT TO ATTEND TO. HE WENT OUT LAST NIGHT AND STILL HASN'T RETURNED YET.

YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE...
LIKE THE SUNSHINE ALWAYS SMILING WARMLY.
YES, YOU WERE ALWAYS
I REMEMBER EVERY-THING
YO! KITTEN HOW'S IT GOING?
grin
OH! YOU CAN'T JUST BARGE IN WITHOUT PERMISSION, ASUBARU!
AW, DON'T BE SO STRICT.
THANK YOU.
HERE. THIS IS TO EXPRESS MY WISH FOR YOU TO GET WELL SOON.
IT'S ONLY ONE FLOWER. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.
WHERE COULD HE POSSIBLY BE AT THIS HOUR?
HAS ROD GONE OUT?

WHAT THE! WELL IN THAT CASE IT'S BOUND TO BE COMPLETELY UNRELIABLE INFORMATION
I WANTED TO FIND HIM TO CONFIRM WITH HIM...
ONLY RABI NO MARUKA, KNOWS
THE EVIL I SUDDENLY SENSED IN THAT MOMENT.
LET'S HOPE I'M JUST WORRYING TOO MUCH
BROTHER ...!

REALLY! HOW CAN HE BE GONE JUST WHEN I HAVE SOMETHING SPECTACULAR TO SHOW HIM!
LATELY, BROTHER HAS BEEN GOING OUT A LOT FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS
HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN MY BROTHER ANYWHERE?
Flop
Puru Puru
BZZ
I LOVE FREEDOM
I HATE TROUBLESOME THINGS!
BECAUSE HERE IN THE SPIRIT WORLD, THERE ARE NO RESTRICTING BOUNDARIES
SOMETHING ABOUT FIGHTING TO GAIN CONTROL OF SOME TERRITORIES, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN IT AT ALL
I ONLY WANT TO CONTINUE THIS CAREFREE WAY OF LIVING

I WANT TO EAT THE BEST FOODS TO HAVE ALL THE FUN I WANT.
I WANT TO LIVE SURROUNDED BY ALL OF MY FAVORITE THINGS!
HEY, BEAUTIFUL ONE.
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FIGHTING OVER TERRITORIES?
I KNOW, SINCE ALL YOU MEN ARE THE SAME!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO CONSTANTLY SPEAK OF SUCH BARBARIC THINGS AS WAR.
THAT'S NOT ALLOWED! YOU BELONG TO ME.

YOU ONLY NEED TO STAY LIKE THIS. AND BRING ME PLEASURE WHEN I LOOK AT YOU. FOREVER.
giggle
FOR EVER AND EVER...

BRO-
THER!
BROTHER
KAROUN!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AREN'T YOU MY BROTHER'S LACKEYS?
SWU SCH
FROM THIS POINT ON ARE THE SACRED GROUNDS WHICH ONLY THE RULER OF THE SPIRIT WORLD CAN TREAD
WE CAN'T MAKE ANY EXCEPTIONS EVEN FOR THE RULER'S SISTER.
I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL MY BROTHER!
KISS
MISS IRUMI!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
DON'T GET IN MY WAY YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!
ISN'T MY BROTHER HERE? LET ME SEE HIM!
WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE ABOUT?
KA-ROUN!
sparkle
bow

WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN?
WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME HERE ALL BY MYSELF?
STUPID, STUPID! STUPID BROTHER!
smile
AS ALWAYS, YOU'RE A SPOILED CHILD, IRIA

YOU ARE ALL DISMISSED.
Bide-kka.
I'VE BEEN TO THE HUMAN WORLD TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND
THE HUMAN WORLD?
WAS IT ANY FUN?
Hihi! Hihi!
DON'T BE SILLY.
I MET THE LEADER OF AZEL.
I THINK HE AND I CAN BECOME GOOD FRIENDS.
PUFF
MMN
MMMMN
HE'S AN AMAZING PERSON.

IT'S NOT ONE OF THOSE STRANGE ODDS AND ENDS YOU ALWAYS BRING HOME AGAIN IS IT?
WHAT'S THIS TREASURE YOU'VE ACQUIRED?
OVER HERE, OVER HERE
HEY! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "AGAIN"!
LOOK,
ISN'T HE A FABULOUS WORK OF ART?
VERY, VERY GOOD FRIENDS

"?
HE IS...!

HE IS THE COUNT OF THE DEMON WORLD...!
IS SOME-THING WRONG BROTH-ER?
twitch
!!
crack
crack
crack

FLASH
IRIA!
KLLRRR
!?

rustle
WHERE IS
THIS PLACE?

WELCOME TO THE SPIRIT WORLD,
COUNT LAURES OF THE DEMON WORLD
COUNT OF THE DEMON WORLD?
LORD KAROUN OF THE SPIRIT WORLD
THE SPIRIT WORLD... ALTHOUGH IT BELONGS TO THE DEMON WORLD,
THIS STILL COUNTS AS ME HAVING FALLEN INTO YOUR TERRITORY?

YOU EVEN KNOW THE NAME OF SOMEONE LIVING IN SUCH A FAR-OUT PLACE LIKE ME, YOU ARE INDEED VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE
MY SISTER SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DISCOURTEOUS TO YOU
ZISCH
ZISCH
TO EXPRESS MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES, I CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO BE A GUEST AT MY HUMBLE CASTLE
WILL YOU GRACE US WITH YOUR PRESENCE?

ONE WOULD NEVER GUESS THAT YOU'RE SO OBSTINATE A PERSON, KAROLIN
IT BELIES YOUR APPEAR-ANCE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT I MADE A MISTAKE.
YES, YOU WERE TOO CARELESS
HOW COULD YOU FAIL TO REPORT TO ME EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THE SPIRIT WORLD, NO MATTER BIG OR SMALL?
I FANCY HE SHOULD BE OF GREAT ADVANTAGE TO ME.
I NEVER IMAGINED THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED THAT WE WOULD DROP FROM THE SKY RIGHT INTO MY LAP LIKE THIS
SEE? THIS IS YOUR "FLOWER OF LIFE".
BUT I GUESS IT'S NOT NEEDED ANYMORE, IS IT?
GRIN
IF THERE'S ONE THING I HATE MOST, IT'S CARELESSNESS.

FLATTER
FLATTER
FLATTER
ESCAPE? WHAT MADE YOU THINK...
I WANT TO ESCAPE?
IT'S USELSS TRYING TO ESCAPE
THOSE GUARDS ARE WATCHING YOUR EVERY MOVE.

IT SEEMS THAT YOU'VE GOT SOMEONE YOU LOVE VERY MUCH
YOU'RE DESPERATE TO GO SEE HER
YOUR THOUGHTS ARE FILLED WITH HER
AND THEN THAT GIRL WAS INJURED
OH!
HEY! WHY DID YOU SHIELD YOURSELF SO SUDDENLY?
That hurts when it happens
WHO TOLD YOU TO READ OTHER'S THOUGHTS WITHOUT PERMISSION
WHAT CAN IT HURT? NOT LIKE THAT
YOU'LL LOSE ANYTHING BY IT. DON'T BE PETTY
FINE THEN I'LL LET YOU READ MY MIND ALL YOU WANT!
!
grab

AH...
!
...!
PLUMPS

I HATE BARBARIANS LIKE YOU!
FORCING YOUR WAY INTO MY MIND AND RUMMAGING THROUGH MY MEMORIES.
YOU'RE SO MEAN!
PATSCH!

GRIN
!

BOA
!
!?
NO DON'T!
YOU'RE ALL DISMISSED
I'M ALRIGHT
THIS GUY MIGHT BE TOUGH

HE DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO LIFT A FINGER...
KY-AAA AH!
CAN YOU PLEASE STOP THAT? YOU'LL SCARE MY SISTER.

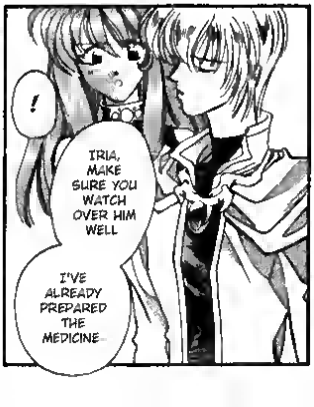
I'M A GUEST OF YOUR CASTLE, AFTER ALL, SO I WAS INCLINED TO BE COURTEOUS
BUT YOU SENT THESE MEN TO KEEP WATCH ON ME, AND MADE ME VERY AGITATED
I WILL THEREFORE BE BLUNT AND ASK WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
BECAUSE HADES IS A COUNTRY THAT KNOWINGLY ADMINISTERS THE "CONFINEMENT OF LIFE"
YOU'RE MIS-TAKEN
I ONLY SENT THEM BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO LEAVE YOU IN SUCH A BAT-TERED STATE

BACK TO THE SUBJECT, YOU ARE INDEED POWERFUL. TO BE ABLE TO WIELD SUCH POWER DESPITE YOUR SERIOUS WOUNDS, YOU TOTALLY SURPRISED ME.
YET, YOU ARE ALREADY AT YOUR LIMIT. ARE YOU NOT?
WHAT'S THIS SMELL?
DAMMIT!
stagger
MY POWER IS SLOWLY DWINDLING AWAY.
THIS IS THE FRAGRANCE OF THE ILLUSIONARY FLOWER

SWEET DREAMS, COUNT LAURES OF THE DEMON WORLD.

ISN'T IT FASCINATING? IT HAS NO EFFECT AGAINST THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE SPIRIT WORLD. BUT AGAINST OUTLANDERS IT ACHIEVES INSTANT RESULTS.
WAMM

SAY IT ISN'T SO, BROTHER! AFTER HE DID SUCH A TERRIBLE THING TO ME?
DON'T WORRY,


!
IRIA, MAKE SURE YOU WATCH OVER HIM WELL
I'VE ALREADY PREPARED THE MEDICINE.

AS LONG AS THE ILLUSIONARY FLOWERS CONTINUE TO BLOOM,
HE WILL NOT WAKE UP.
AND THEN WHEN HE RECOVERS FROM HIS INJURIES
AND WAKES,
WHO'S TO SAY THAT HE HASN'T ALREADY BECOME OUR BIDDABLE ALLY?
AT TIMES LIKE THESE THE "ILLUSIONARY FLOWER" IS OF THE GREATEST HELP TO US
ILLUSIONARY FLOWERS HAVE THE ABILITY TO ERASE ONE'S MEMORIES
AND THE ABILITY TO BRAIN-WASH!

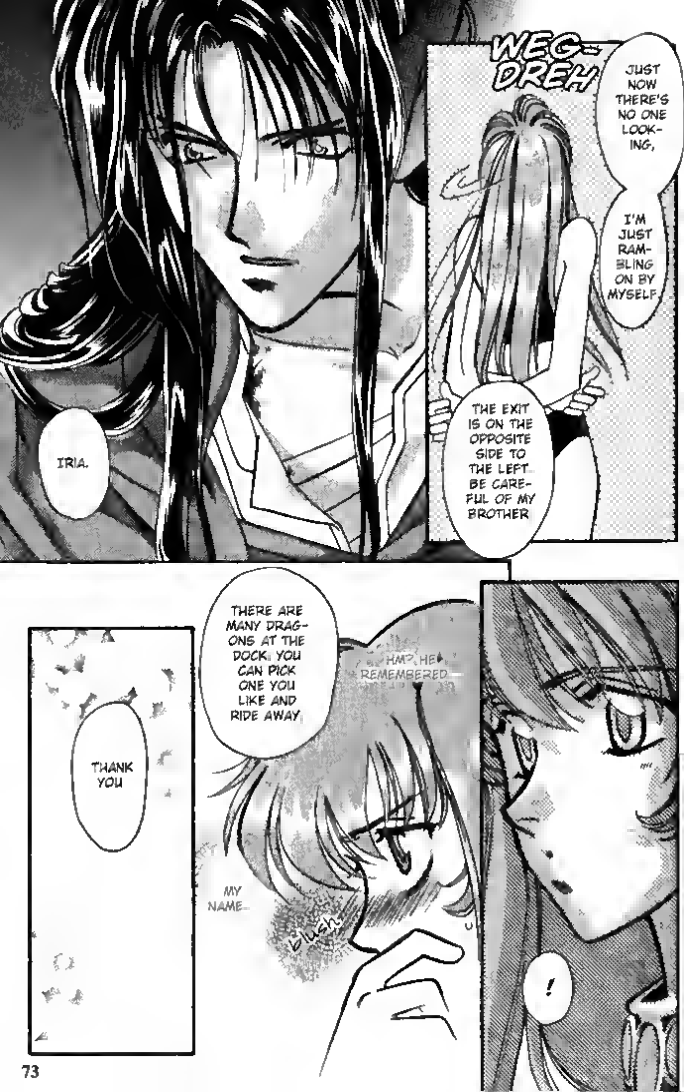
AH, SO HE WILL BE MADE TO FORGET EVERYTHING...

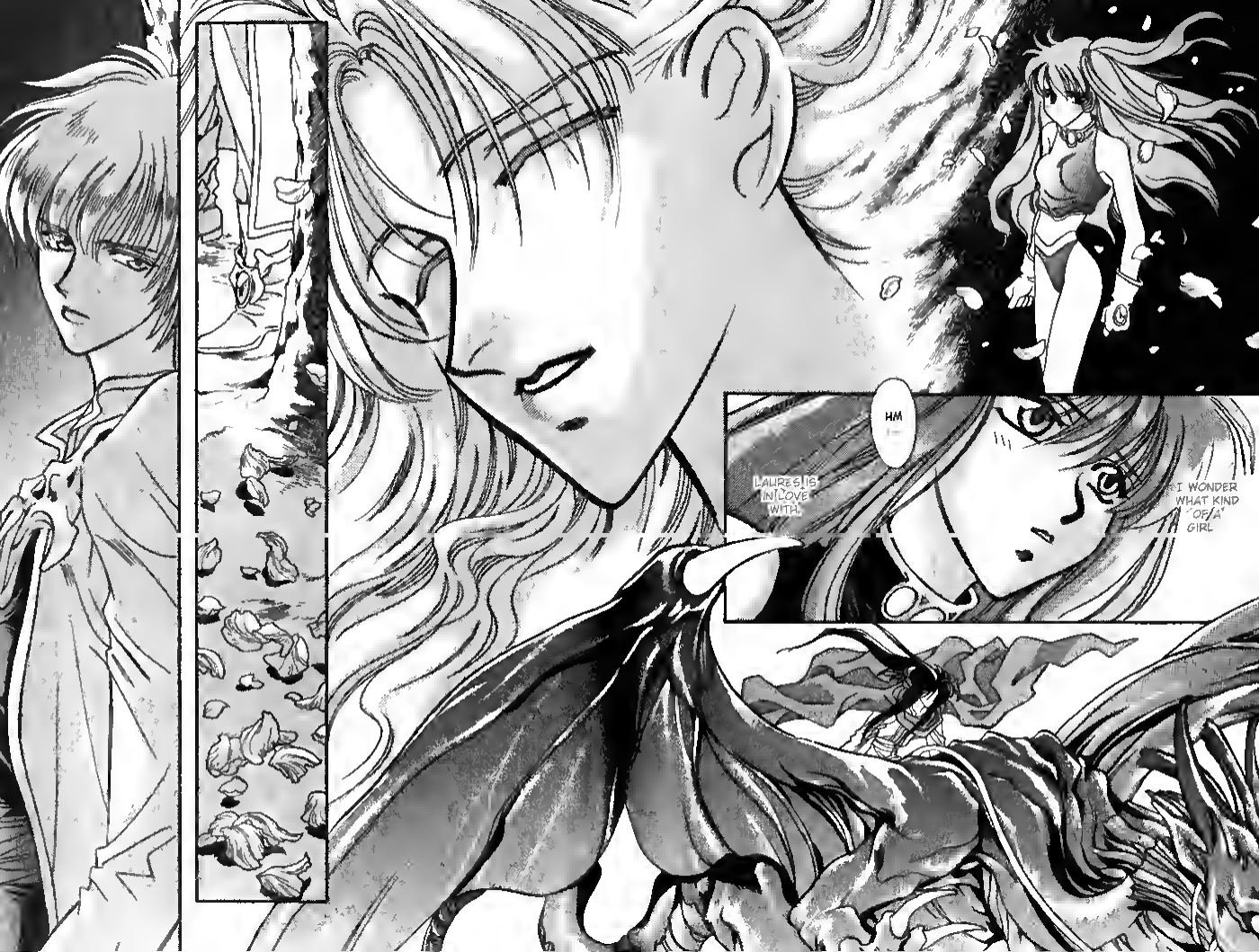
THAT TIME WHEN HE FORCED HIS EMOTIONS INTO MY HEART THAT EMOTION WAS SO STRONG AND POWERFUL
AND SO PROFOUND I THINK IT IS A KIND OF HOPELESS DESPAIR —
A KIND OF SAD-NESS.
A KIND OF END-LESS DARK-NESS.

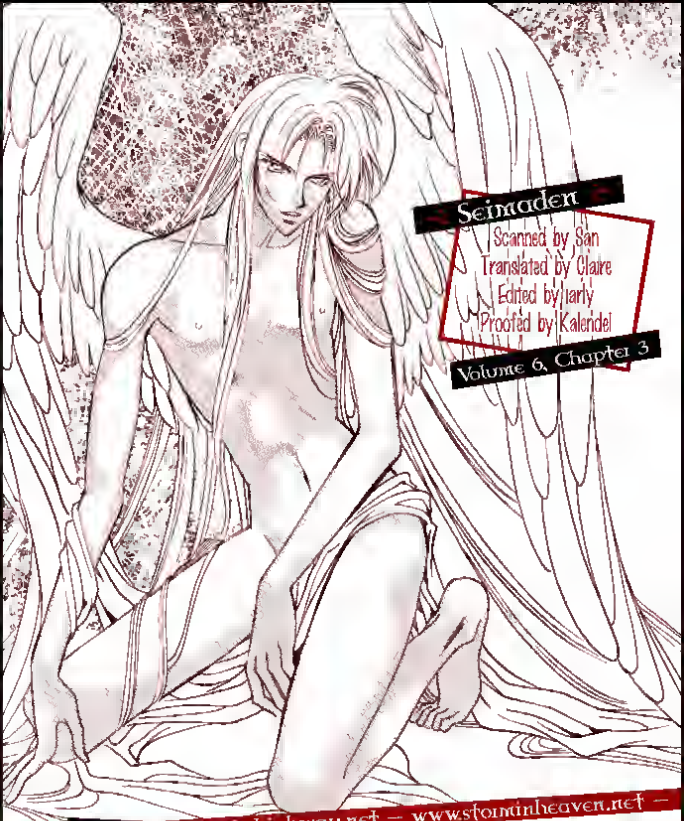
HOWEVER THERE WAS SOMETHING SURROUNDED BY A GOLDEN LIGHT IT WAS A FACE
ALTHOUGH LAURES IMMEDIATELY CLOSED OFF HIS HEART THE IMAGE WAS ALREADY SKETCHED DEEP INTO MY MIND'S EYE

YOU MUST
CARE FOR THAT PERSON VERY MUCH RIGHT?
TO THE POINT WHERE YOU CONDEMNED YOURSELF TO FALL INTO AN EVERLASTING CHASM OF DARKNESS FOR HER
I ENVY THAT WOMAN. TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO ADORES HER SO MUCH
THAT'S SO MEAN.
EVEN IF HE'S MY BROTHER
sigh
BROTHER W..NTS YOU TO FORGET EVEN THAT.
SORRY,
I KNOW YOU'RE ALL INNOCENT
!
AL-RIGHT!

BAFF
FALL, ILLUSIONARY FLOWERS!


WEG-DREH
JUST NOW THERE'S NO ONE LOOKING,
I'M JUST RAMBLING ON BY MYSELF.
THE EXIT IS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE TO THE LEFT. BE CAREFUL OF MY BROTHER
IRIA.
THERE ARE MANY DRAGONS AT THE DOCK. YOU CAN PICK ONE YOU LIKE AND RIDE AWAY.
HM? HE REMEMBERED
THANK YOU
MY NAME
blush
!


HM
I—
LAURES IS IN LOVE WITH
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF A GIRL



Seimaden

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Volume 6, Chapter 3

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STORM IN HEAVEN
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SO DARK...
WHERE AM I?
WHEN DID IT BECOME LIKE THIS?

A FEELING OF ANGER LIKE THE ERUPTION OF MOLTEN ROCKS, AND SADNESS THAT MAKES ME WANT TO COUGH UP BLOOD
AN UNBEARABLE PAIN AND SORROW AS SHARP AS THE SLASH OF A KNIFE
ALL THAT TALK ABOUT SALVA-TION
ALL THAT TALK ABOUT SALVA-TION...
I DON'T NEED IT IN THE LEAST!

JUST ONCE,
JUST GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE!
OH!
ROD

UWAAA!
SSSSSSS
I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT RABI
ALTHOUGH I HAVE TO BE ROUGH I STILL NEED TO DRAG YOU OUT, MARUKA.
ASU-BARU ...
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE SO INSOLENT AS TO...!
SO WHAT IF I'M INSOLENT?
SAY, PRIESTESS OF AZEL. YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ROD. WOULD YOU?

GET YOUR DIRTY HANDS OFF ME!
TRASH LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW!
BEFORE WHEN I BRUSHED PAST HIM, I FELT AN OMINOUS AURA AROUND HIM
THAT'S RIGHT, JUST LIKE ...
smile
...!
SO ....
THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.
THAT KID
HE'S... ROD ...
IS BEING POSSESSED BY KAIME!!

THIS MAN... HE'S NOT HUMAN?
WHAT?
HIS STRENGTH IS INCREASING BY THE MOMENT,
CAN IT BE THAT HE WAS HIDING IT ALL ALONG?
Aaahh!
clench
SUCH ARROGANT WORDS! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
!?
I WOULD'VE GOTTEN RID OF YOU LONG AGO
IF I HAD REALIZED EARLIER
IT'S HIS DESTINY
YAH!
!?
OUCH
YOU SHOULDN'T SNEAK UP ON PEOPLE LIKE THAT
ROD

YOU CAME BACK JUST IN TIME, ROD
YOU... YOU'RE ONLY A PAWN BEING USED BY KAIME!!
PLEASE WAKE UP, ROD.
I'VE ALREADY FINISHED THE TASK, MARUKA.
DON'T LISTEN TO MARUKA, IT'LL ONLY DO YOU HARM.
AH, I GIVE UP.
I DOUBT I'LL BE ABLE TO WIN YOU OVER.
THE SWORD OF AZEL?
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!
HUSCH
WER

!
EVEN POSSESSED BY KAIME! YOU'RE STILL SO NAIVE!
GET RID OF THAT SWORD, ROD! IT'S BECAUSE YOU HOLD THE SWORD THAT YOU'VE BECOME SO STRANGE!
AH!
WAMM

UGH
HURRY... CHANGE BACK INTO...
THE ROD YOU ONCE WERE.
slide

YOU HAVE TO REALIZE THAT SOON
PLAFF
ALL THE STUFF ABOUT PREORDAINED FATE, IS NOT FUN TO MESS AROUND WITH.
!
...!
WHO IS IT?

I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, BUT I'LL GIVE HIM MY TOY.
I KNOW LORD AZEL CAN HEAL HIM, CAN YOU PLEASE LET ME SEE LORD AZEL?
LORD AZEL, I WANT TO SEE LORD AZEL.
MY FATHER WAS AMBUSHED BY A DEMON, HE'S HURT BAD.
HEY LITTLE ONE. YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE
ROD IS NOT HERE RIGHT NOW
SORRY, HILDA.
PLAM
UH HUH, MUCH BETTER.
I'LL PUT THESE FLOWERS IN A VASE FOR YOU ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?

NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
YOU LOOK SO GLOOMY, IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE LONELY NOW THAT ROD ISN'T HERE?
I APOLOGIZE CALM DOWN
IT'S JUST NOW, FROM STAYING HERE THAT I REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT ROD IS TO EVERYONE
HE'S SO KIND-HEARTED, HE TAKES EVERYBODY'S TROUBLES ONTO HIS SHOULDERS
AT TIMES, I SEE HIM WITH AN EXPRESSION FULL OF PAIN, BUT HE NEVER SHOWS THIS EXPRESSION TO OTHER PEOPLE
HIS HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TOO MUCH TO BEAR ALONE

I WANT TO HELP HIM SO MUCH. I HOPE WITH ALL MY HEART THAT HE WON'T BE....
CRUSHED UNDER THAT BURDEN.
HE
HAS TO FIGHT. SO I WILL FIGHT WITH HIM, TOO

IT'S GETTING WINDY I'D BETTER CLOSE THE WINDOWS
OKAY
FLASH
POOF
KUKURU? ARE YOU OKAY THERE KUKURU?
!

YOU'RE ALRIGHT ...
LAURES

...!
avert
I'M SO GLAD...

rustle
pull

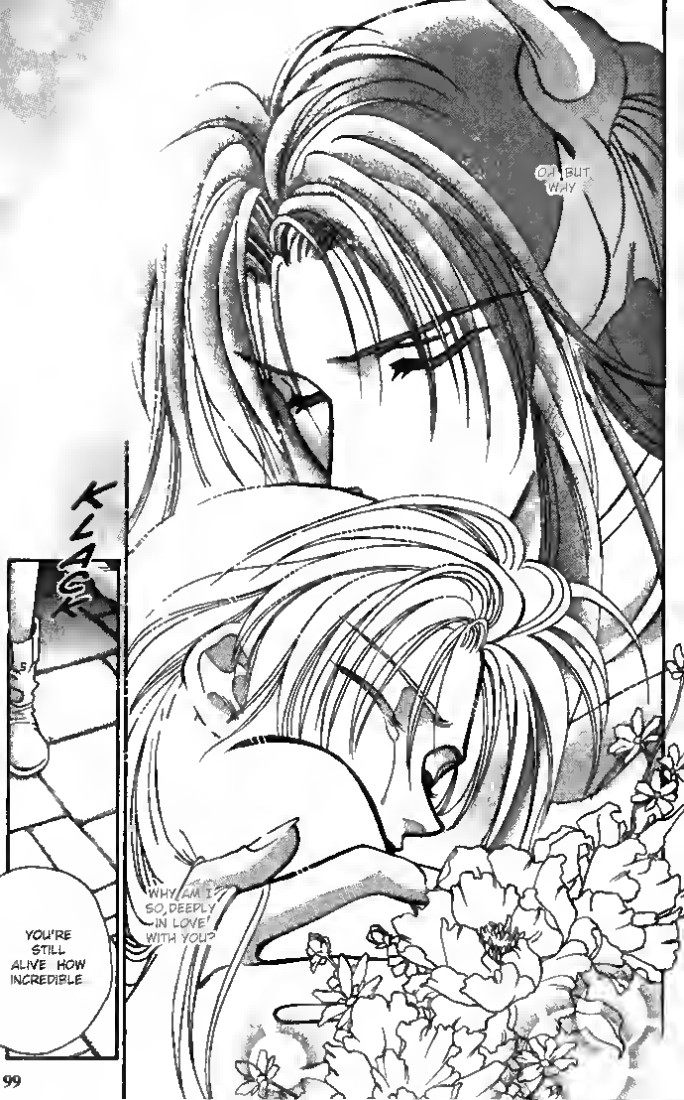
HILDA!
I REGAINED MY MEMORIES OF RODRIQUE THAT YOU SEALED
!
YES ...
UNFORTU-NATELY FOR YOU YOU DIDN'T GET WHAT YOU WISHED

WHY SAY THINGS THAT HURT YOU?
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU SHOULD SAY WHEN WE'VE BEEN PARTED FOR SO LONG
YOU THINK I'LL STILL LOVE YOU NOW?
WHEN I'VE ALREADY REMEMBERED EVERYTHING THAT I'LL STILL LOVE YOU?
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT? I'M NOT THAT GULLIBLE!
YOU DIDN'T
YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER EVERYTHING!
YOU'RE HURTING ME!
LET GO
SQUEEZE

IT HURTS LAURES'
DON'T
YOUR HAND YOUR FACE EVEN TO THE SMALLEST STRAND OF YOUR HAIR, THERE ISN'T A PART OF YOUR BODY THAT'S NOT AN EXACT COPY OF HER
SURELY HER SOUL RESIDES IN THIS BODY SOMEWHERE, BUT, WHY
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
I KNOW
IF YOU'RE ROD'S ENEMY THEN YOU'RE MY ENEMY AS WELL,
WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME WITH REJECTION IN YOUR EYES?
THAT'S THE WAY I SEE IT!

DO YOU KNOW THAT WHEN YOU UTTER WHAT SEEMS LIKE MEAN-INGLESS WORDS TO YOU,
THAT TO ME, IT'S LIKE A FATAL WOUND TO THE HEART?
KILL ME IF YOU MUST.
...ALL ALONG...
I SO FIRMLY BELIE-VED...

THE ONE WHO'D BE BROKEN INTO PIECES, WOULD BE YOU, LAURES
I'M NOT YOUR PUPPET!
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU,
WON'T FORGIVE YOU...
I won't forgive you!


OH BUT WHY
KLAK
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE HOW INCREDIBLE
WHY AM I SO DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH YOU?

I WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE,
LEAVE HERE IMMEDIATELY!
OH!
LAU-RES
WHAT CONFIDENT WORDS. IS THE POWER OF YOUR SWORD THAT AMAZING?
ONLY, I'M AFRAID I CAN'T COMPLY. I'VE NEVER LIKED BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO BY ANOTHER PERSON

AH...
drip
drip
Hilda!
stagger

RO
ROD...

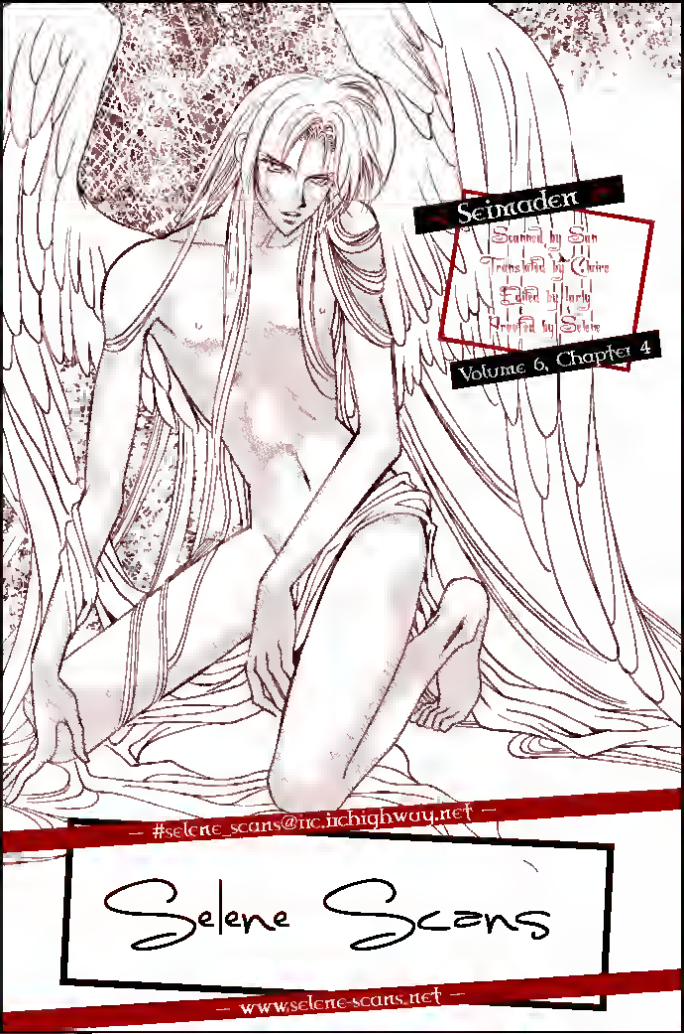
PLOP
SHE'S BLEEDING VERY HEAVILY!
IT'S GOT TO BE STOPPED RIGHT AWAY!
WE'LL CONTINUE OUR FIGHT THE NEXT TIME WE GET THE CHANCE,
ROD.

LAU-
RES!
KUSCH
rustle
I'LL
HAND
HILDA
...
OVER
TO
YOU.

NO... NO...
YOU CAN'T USE SO MUCH POWER
YOU'LL LOSE TO HIM.
IT'S ONLY A MINOR THING, IT'LL MEAN NOTHING IN THE LONG RUN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH
THE LEADER OF AZEL CAN'T LIVE FOR LONG
I DON'T WANT TO BE THAT EITHER.

WHY ARE YOU CRYING, HILDA?
IT'S NOTHING
JUST KEEP ON HOLDING ME
DON'T LET ME GO, ROD

YOU LOOK LIKE AN ABANDONED PUPPY.
YOU WITNESSED THE WHOLE THING FROM BEGINNING TO END? YOU'VE GOT SOME BAD HABITS
I MAY BE A BIT CHEEKY BY SAYING THIS,
BUT YOU'RE REALLY CUTE.
So you've figured it out?
HI HI
YOU CAN SAY ANYTHING YOU LIKE. I DON'T CARE.
I'M NOT EXACTLY IN THE BRIGHTEST OF MOODS RIGHT NOW.
THEN, I'LL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAY SOMETHING THAT WOULD ADD TO YOUR BAD MOOD.
SHE WILL DIE, IF THIS CONTINUES ON.



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...!
SHE WILL DIE,
IF THIS CONTINUES ON

POFF
THIS IS HILDA'S FLOWER OF LIFE
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION JUST BY LOOKING AT IT, RIGHT?
WHEN THE PETALS OF THIS FLOWER COMPLETELY DROPS OFF,
HER LIFE WOULD BE AT AN END.

FOA
I'M THE MASTER OF THE SPIRIT WORLD
THERE IS A WAY THAT I CAN REJUVENATE THIS FLOWER
EVEN IF IT'S ALREADY WILTING, THE FLOWER BRAVELY RETAINS IT'S LOVELINESS.
SO PRETTY
A PURE AND FLAWLES FLOWER EXACTLY LIKE THAT YOUNG WOMAN
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
YOU ARE QUICK TO PICK UP ON THINGS.
YOU?
HARDLY SURPRISING GIVEN THAT YOU WERE THE PREVIOUS COUNT'S RIGHT HAND MAN. I HAVE NEED OF YOUR ASSISTANCE IN A CERTAIN MATTER.

I HAVE THE UTMOST CONFIDENCE
AND THAT IS...
TO SEE YOU ASCEND TO THE THRONE OF THE DEMON WORLD.
THAT TO SAVE THAT GIRL'S LIFE
YOU WOULD BIND YOURSELF IN THESE HEAVY CHAINS!
YOU GRAB IT AND USE IT TO THE FULLEST
ALTHOUGH THE DEMON WORLD IS VAST, THERE IS NO CANDIDATE MORE SUITABLE THAN YOU!
WHAT YOU CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF

YOU
... ARE A CHESS PIECE IN MY HANDS ...
clench
WHAT'S FOR YOUR BENEFIT IN THIS?
YOU WILL KNOW LATER ON
THE ONLY THING LEFT FOR YOU TO DO NOW IS TO GIVE ME A YES OR A NO
I THINK YOU KNOW MY ANSWER ALREADY, KAROUN.

Everything that is vile, come rally to my banner.
BRZZ
COME MY COMRADES
I AM GOING TO FREE YOU FROM YOUR CHAINS
GIVE ME ALL YOUR POWER!

It is the call of our king.
MMMM
Quickly, come!
Come!

Come and kneel at the feet
of your almighty king!
The revered king encircled by darkness!
HEUUU
SFX: HOWL

I CAN'T STAND UP...
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY
WAA A...!
WAA A...!
STOP CRYING
GET UP ON YOUR FEET
YOU HAVE TO BE BRAVE HURRY
IT'S LORD AZEL.
LORD AZEL S HERE...
LORD AZEL!
ROD!
LORD AZEL!

BIG BROTHER, WHO'S THAT?
WHAT'S A MESSIAH?
DON'T YOU KNOW? HE'S THE LEADER OF AZEL OUR MESSIAH
KUKURU ARE YOU OKAY?
IT'S ONE WHO WILL DESTROY ALL THE MONSTERS AND DEMONS
IN SIMPLER TERMS HE'S THE AVATAR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
Avatar of Righteousness
AH ROD... THERE ISN'T ANYBODY ELSE FUTHER ON DOWN
I'VE ALREADY INSTRUCTED EVERYBODY TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE CHURCH

I PROMISE ME YOU'LL BE CAREFUL, ROD
Smile
THANK YOU.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO FAR
GOOD, THEN HURRY AND GET OUT OF HERE YOURSELVES KUKURU.
WHEN YOU SEE EVERYBODY TELL THEM I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST
OH, TO BE ABLE TO ACTUALLY TALK TO THE AVATAR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
WOW
HA
OF COURSE!
WE ARE MATES

BAD
rattle
IT IS THE WORST ONE WE'VE EVER HAD
I CAN SENSE A VERY STRONG DEMON "KI"
HURRY BACK! THIS IS MOST LIKELY TO BE THE DEMON'S LAIR
WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS?

Laures!
It is the call of our king!
RAUSCH
Our king is calling us.
Our king is calling us.
CAN IT BE...
THEIR KING!?

WE ARE SHIELDED UNDER THE MAGICAL BARRIER ROD SET UP. THOSE NASTY DEMONS HAVE NO WAY OF GETTING NEAR.
attle
OH, ROD.
Laures!
WAAM
UGH
THEN EVERYTHING IS ALL "!?
H HALT!
LAURES IS THE KING OF THE DEMON WORLD!?
BLITZ

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN PAIN
I'M FINE. BUT WHAT ABOUT HILDA ?
THE BLEEDING HAS STOPPED BUT SHE S BEEN UNCONSCIOUS SINCE YOU LEFT.
IF YOU KNEW ABOUT HIM YOU'D SURELY BE BROKEN-HEARTED
HILDA

IF POSSIBLE, I WANT THINGS TO STAY AS THEY ARE
I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU ANYTHING
slide
ROD?
IT
YOU USED UP TOO MUCH OF YOUR STRENGTH. NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE, THERE IS A LIMIT TO YOUR ENDURANCE
stunned
YOU ARE
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT INTRODUCING MYSELF. MY NAME IS KAROLIN
I'M ONE OF YOUR FOLLOWERS

!
WHO IS HE?
OH, HE CAME JUST RECENTLY HE'S A VERY NICE YOUNG MAN
and cute too
I'LL LEND YOU MY SHOULDERS TO LEAN ON
YOU BETTER GO BACK AND HAVE A REST
SORRY ABOUT THIS
I SEEMED TO HAVE SENSED AN UNFAMILIAR AKIY JUST NOW
AM I JUST WORRYING TOO MUCH!?

ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH
LOOSEN UP YOUR CLOTHES IT'LL BE EASIER FOR YOU TO BREATHE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU DO THIS EVERY TIME,
SHOULDERING ALL THE PAIN BY YOURSELF
IT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN

DON'T TEASE PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
WHY WOULD I TEASE YOU?
DON'T YOU AGREE THAT THE WARMTH OF HUMAN SKIN FEELS SOOTHING?
YOU DIDN'T PUSH MY HANDS AWAY
THAT'S A BIG STEP FORWARD, AM I RIGHT?
shicket
THE DEAD
IF THERE'S ONE EXCEPTION, I GUESS IT'LL BE THE DEAD.
WHENEVER A HEART IS FROZEN EVEN THAT WILL BECOME A TROUBLESOME THING
ANYONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE THE WARMTH OF HUMAN SKIN CANNOT CONTINUE TO LIVE

YOU...
WISH TO BECOME ONE OF THE DEAD?
THE PEOPLE OF THE AZEL'S...
THE ELDER KAIMEI'S DYING HOPES...
YOU
clench
WHAT DO YOU KNOW! LOOK AT YOU, YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERY-THING!
YOU...
THIS IS THE REASON I WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD. EVEN IF I HAVE TO SACRIFICE EVERY-THING, I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE BUT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION!
OTHER THAN THAT, THERE'S NO OTHER MEANING TO MY LIFE!

EVEN IF IT MEANS ABANDONING EVERYTHING, I'LL HAVE TO...
THEY PURPOSELY LED YOU INTO THINKING THAT
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU SHOULD KNOW
jerk
I don't know!

YOU CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.
AZEL HAVE NO NEED OF YOUR PERSONALITY, NO NEED OF YOUR SOUL
THIS WAY, YOU ARE BOUND TO BE DESTROYED
DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT THAT AT ALL?
IS IT ANOTHER DEMON ATTACK?
shake
hiss

Who the hell are you?
SSSS
I'M YOUR FRIEND!
ROD

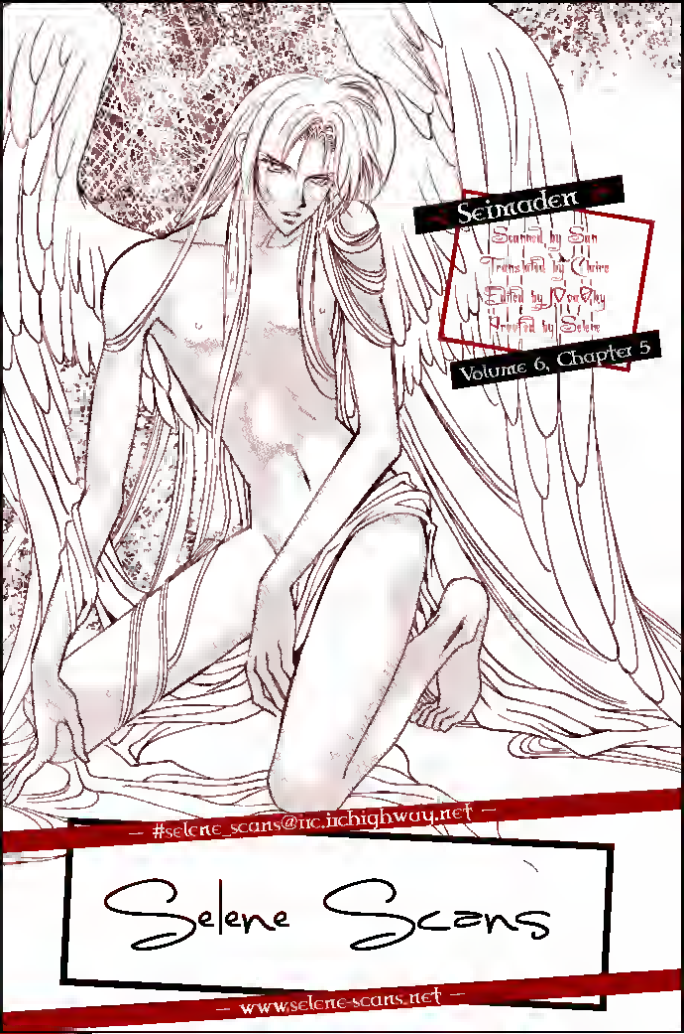
slide
slam
ROD, WHAT WAS THAT EARTH-QUAKE JUST THEN...
AH ....
AH,
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW,
I'LL LOOK AFTER HIM.
HE MUST HAVE OVER-EXHAUSTED HIMSELF AND COULD NOT KEEP A TIGHT REIN ON HIS OWN POWER.
THAT'S GOOD
POOF

...!?
YOU ARE SUCH SLAVE-DRIVERS, TO EXHAUST HIM TO SUCH AN EXTENT
OH YES, YOUR NAME IS KUKURU?
YES. I HAVE TO MAKE ROD TRUST ME FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART..
HE MUST WILLINGLY HAND OVER HIS BODY AND SOUL OR ELSE ALL OF THIS WILL LOOSE IT'S MEANING
CAN YOU PLEASE GET OUT?
YOU'LL ONLY BE IN THE WAY HERE.

SUDDENLY THE SERIOUS GIRL
WHAT IS HE UP TO? THAT NASTY GUY.
slam
BECAUSE OF THAT YOU DON'T NEED ANY OTHER CONFIDANTES
THAT HAVE FALLEN INTO THE SILVER TRAP LAID BY ME!!
YOU ARE A PREY

TO SAVE YOU I WILL EVEN KNEEL BEFORE OTHERS,
OR BECOME ANOTHER'S HENCHMEN
EVEN IF I HAVE TO BECOME THE LORD OF DESTRUCTION AND DESTROY EVERYTHING, I WILL DO IT WITHOUT ANY REGRETS

IS NOT WORTH A SINGLE DROP OF YOUR BLOOD
EVEN THE BLOOD
OF ALL THE LIVING THINGS IN THIS WORLD POOLED TOGETHER,
KRACKS
DO YOU KNOW THAT, HILDA?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HAF
DUST
IT'LL BE MEANINGLESS TO CONTINUE ON IN THIS MANNER

RUSTTLE
I
WHEN LAURES OFFICIALLY DECLARES HIMSELF AS KING OF THE DEMON WORLD
I'M ONLY THROWING MY STRENGTH AWAY IF I CONTINUE ON BATTLING THIS WAY
TO THAT END
I MUST PREPARE TO ENGAGE IN A MAJOR BATTLE WITH HIM

TO FIGHT WITH THESE COUNTLESS DEMONS, RELYING ON THE POWER OF ONE PERSON THERE'S VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF WINNING
BUT IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH
YUKURU BOIN
SPLASH
BUT
THE POWERLESS PEOPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO POWERS
EVERYBODY IS UNITED IN AN EFFORT TO SURVIVE

HERE, THIS BLANKET'S FOR YOU. THE WEATHER TURN FREEZING WHEN THE RAIN COMES
AH, YOU'RE SO KIND.
OI, KETA, HELP ME SUPPORT THE BOTTOM
SOME VILLAGERS WERE BURNT SO COMPLETELY THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE A BLADE OF GRASS LEFT
THOSE WHO MADE IT HERE SHOULD COUNT THEMSELVES LUCKY.
YO, YOU'RE LOOKING ENERGETIC TODAY, KUKURU. THERE WERE SO MANY WHO WERE BURNT TO DEATH.
OKAY
WAH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
LOOK AT HOW EXCITED HE IS
HE'S THE ONE WHO WORSHIPS RODRIQUE THE MOST!
OH, RODRIGE'S BACK!

OF COURSE, I KNOW THIS.
ALTHOUGH I KNOW IT, CLEARN IN MY HEART, BUT...
SIQEEEZE
DON'T BE SILLY. THERE'S SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE
AREN'T YOU BEING TOO ROTTEN?
I WORSHIP HIM SO MUCH SO STRONG-WILLED AND KING-HEARTED, DON'T YOU THINK SO, KETA?
I WISH I CAN BECOME LIKE HIM.
I HEARD THAT HE WAS ONCE THE RIGHT-HAND MAN OF THE FORMER KING OF THE DEMON WORLD
WE CANNOT DELAY. WE HAVE TO FIND HIM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
HUH?
AND SO HE'LL HAVE TO SPEND MORE TIME ON IT, RODRIQUE?
YES, THE INJURES HE SUFFERED IN THE OTHER DIMENSION LOOKS TO BE QUITE HEAVY,
AND THEREFORE HE'S BEING HEALED BACK IN THE DEMON WORLD AT THE MOMENT.
YOU MUST BE COLD AFTER BEING DRENCHED BY THE RAIN.
DRINKING THIS WILL WARM YOU UP.
THIS IS MY SPECIAL "STAMINA" TEA.

KUKURU!
CLACK
YOU LOOK SO UNHAPPY ARE YOU RELUCTANT TO DO THIS?
DON'T YOU WANT TO MAKE USE OF THE DEMON CLANS?
IT'S NOT THAT, ONLY...
WHAT. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? TO SIDE YOURSELF WITH THE DEMONS?
WE ARE FIGHTING THE DEMON RACE RIGHT NOW!
WHY DO YOU ...
OBJECT! I OBJECT!
CLINK
YOU ARE SO SHAMELESS TO EAVES-DROP ON OUR CONVER-SATION
KU-KU-RU!
YOU SPEAK OF NOT USING THE DEMONS, BUT HOW GOOD DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
YOU DON'T STOP TO THINK THAT YOU'RE BEING PROTEC-TED BY OTHERS, AND DARE TO VOICE YOUR OPINION
E-YAAH!

IN SPITE OF THAT, I STILL BELIEVED I COULD BE OF SOME HELP TO RODRIQUE
HOW COULD I NOT KNOW MY OWN WORTHLESSNESS?
WAIT, KU-KU-RU!
I DON'T WANT TO BE TRASH THAT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO DO ANYTHING, DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO HELP!
HUFF!
KU-KU-RU...
DON'T FOLLOW ME, STUPID!
I KNOW I'M NOTHING BUT WORTHLESS, SO...

HI HI
OH, YOU GIVE ME SOMETHING THAT NOBODY CAN MATCH.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT AT ALL.
RO-DRI-QUE?
I'M ONLY A CHILD.
I CAN'T JOIN IN THE BATTLE, AND I'LL ONLY BE OF TROUBLE FOR YOU.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION, YOU MAINTAINED YOUR FAITH IN ME. AND FOLLOWED ME.
PATT
THERE'S NOTHING THAT MAKES ME HAPPIER.

YOU WILL, KUKURU
I... I WANT TO BE STRONG SO MUCH, TO BE VERY VERY STRONG!
RO-DRI-QUE!
WILL BE EVEN STRONGER THAN ME...
JUST LIKE YOU...
BE EVEN STRONGER THAN ME...
WAAAAAH!

HAAAA!
IT'S DONE A GOOD JOB AGAINST THOSE CONTINUOUS ASSAULTS
THE MAGICAL BARRIER IS WEARING THIN.
IT IS ALREADY AT IT'S LIMIT
BLIT

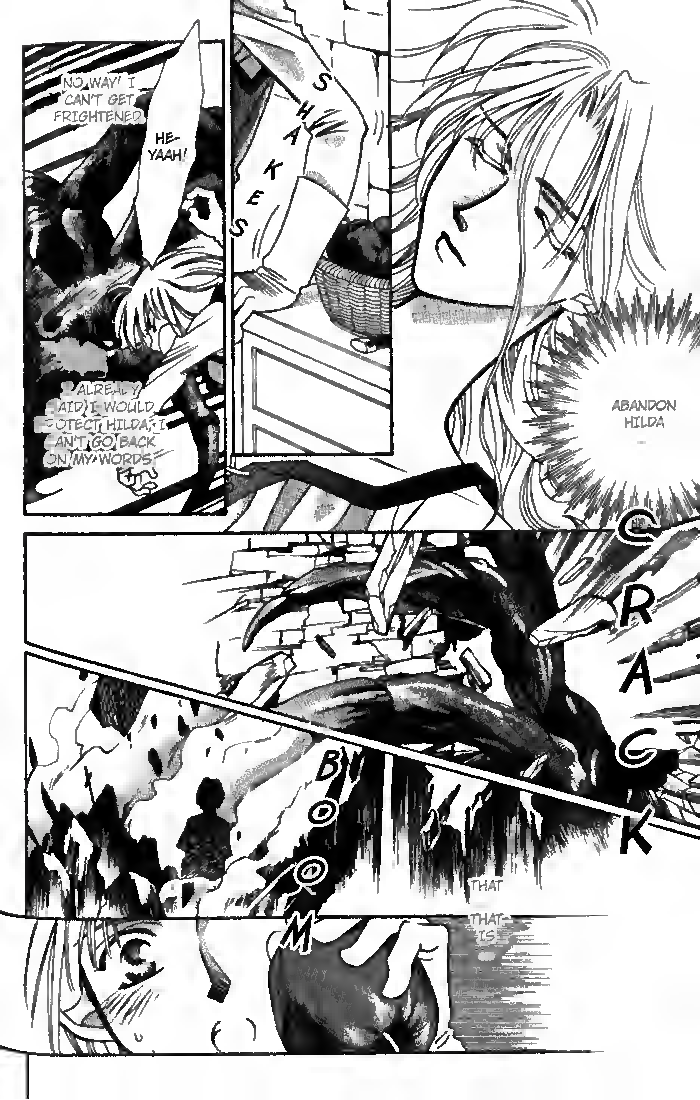
WAIT, RYUTO!
THIS PLACE IS NOT SAFE ANYMORE
EVERYBODY PACK YOUR THINGS AND FOLLOW MARUKA TO ANOTHER SHELTER
BUT WHAT ABOUT HILDA? SHE'S SO BADLY INJURED THAT SHE CAN'T MOVE
KUKURU, YOU NEED TO LEAVE NOW TOO!
HE'S IN THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGES, SOMEONE HAS ALREADY BEEN SENT TO FETCH HIM
I'M SURE HE'LL BE BACK SOON. DON'T WORRY! LEAVE HILDA TO RODRIGUE
AH, WAIT A MOMENT, KUKURU.
ALSO, WHERE DID RODRIGUE RUN OFF TO? I CAN'T BELIEVE HE CHOSE THIS TIME TO BE AWAY

AT LEAST UNTIL RODRIQUE GETS BACK.
I HAVE TO PROTECT HILDA WELL
YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING! HOW COULD I ABANDON HILDA IN SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE?
UNTIL RODRIQUE GETS BACK.

YES, MAKE HASTE, RODRIQUE.
COME BACK AND WITNESS... THE ONCOMING TRAGEDY
IS SHE STILL BREATHING?
GASP
AGITATE
NOW THAT EVERYBODY'S ALREADY LEFT, THIS PLACE IS UNCOMFORTABLY QUIET.
SILENCE
...?
...!

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
EEE-EEK!
AAAAH! LOOK OVER THERE!
THE CHURCH ...

DON'T ... DON'T COME NEAR ME!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
ROAR
ROAR
WAAAAHH!
RODRIQUE, HURRY AND COME BACK!
RODRIQUE ...
... AH ...
WOULD IT BE BETTER IF I ABANDONED HILDA AND RUN OFF BY MYSELF?
HURRY, RODRIQUE!


NO WAY! I CAN'T GET FRIGHTENED
HE-YAAH!
ALREADY SAID I WOULD PROTECT HILDA, I CAN'T GO BACK ON MY WORDS
SHAKES
ABANDON HILDA
CRACK
BOOM
THAT
THAT IS

HURRY, COME AND HELP ME TO GET HILDA...
YOU DIDN'T LEAVE, KAROLIN?
THEY'RE MY PETS.
AREN'T THEY CUTE?

THIS KI
CAN IT BE THAT LAURES IS AROUND?
YOU HAVE TO BE IN TIME!
WHISTLE
HUFF
HUFF
DON'T COME NEAR ME, YOU BASTARD!

CRACKS
GASP
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!
GASP
PRETENDING TO BE HIS FRIEND TO SUCK UP TO RODRIGUE, WHAT'S YOUR PLAN? YOU TRAITOR!
NOT BAD, WITH JUST A FRUIT KNIFE
HOW COURAGEOUS YOU ARE!
HILDAA!

BAMM

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, KAROLIN?

WHY DO YOU TRY TO HARM HILDA?
IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME A GOOD REASON, DON'T BLAME ME IF I DO SOMETHING I MIGHT REGRET
I STILL NEED A COMPANION LIKE YOU, WHY WOULD I DO SUCH A THING?
FURTHER-MORE, LAURES, ISN'T SHE ALREADY SAFE IN YOUR HANDS?
DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL ONLY NEED TO DO AS I SAY. I'LL RESURRECT HER.
HE HE
I DON'T MEAN TO KILL HER.

I ONLY FEEL THAT HER HATRED TOWARDS YOU IS STILL NOT QUITE ENOUGH.
!
SO
HURRY AND TAKE HER OUT OF HERE!
I WILL FOLLOW LATER

BUT, BEFORE YOU DO THAT,
UNTIL THEN, YOU CAN ENJOY YOUR LITTLE MEETING WITH HER
PLEASE KILL HIM FIRST, LAURES
BECAUSE HE HAS SEEN THROUGH MY DISGUISE IT'LL BE RATHER IN-CONVENIENT
TSCHH
TSCHH
?!
RIGHT IN FRONT OF RODRIGUE?

MAKE IT AS AGONIZING AS POSSIBLE.
THUNDER
KUKUKU!

KUKURU, HANG IN THERE!
I'M NO GOOD. I COULDN'T BE LIKE YOU AT ALL.
BUT, I'VE ALREADY TRIED MY BEST.
!
DON'T SPEAK, YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT.
HM, BUT, I HATE PAIN.
PLEASE LEND ME SOME STRENGTH
THERE'S NO NEED, RODRIQUE. DON'T USE YOUR HEALING ON ME.
I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE
I'M SUCH A COWARD.
HAHA, DAMN IT. WITHOUT MY LEFT HAND, I CAN'T TOUCH YOU ...
RODRIQUE ...

KU-KU-RU!
CAN EVEN SOME-ONE,
LIKE ME BECOME AS POW-ERFUL AS YOU?
AH ...
KUKURU!
KUKURU!
WHY? ... WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?
YOUR LIFE WAS JUST BEGINNING.
WHY? ...
OPEN YOUR EYES, KUKURU!

KU-
KU-
RU-
...
LAURES...
I SWEAR
UPON
KUKURU'S
BLOOD,
I WILL...
THE ONE
WHO KILLED
AND KUKURU
AND SNATCHED
HILDA ALWAY,
UNFOR-
GIV-
ABLE...
I
WILL
NOT
FORGET
THIS!

COURTING YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION

HI HI HI HI
EXCELLENT
I ONLY LAYED A PATH...
IT IS YOU WHO PROCEEDED ON THIS PATH BY YOUR OWN WILL

ROD WIRD SPRECHER FÜR ANSTAND IN DER VERRUFENEN ASERYUU-SCHULE. ER SCHWÖRT DIE BESEITIGUNG DES BÖSEN VIEL ERFOLG ROD! HALT DURCH!
STAND-HAFT.
ZAPEI ALS BOSS EINER HALB-STARKENBANDE IN OETA
HÄÄ?
EINE ROSE, LIEBLING DES GYMNASIUMS' CHARON

Schreibweise von Seimaden tatsächlich anders. Und meine Ch tere sprechen plötzlich Chine was ich gar nicht kann!! Und e ungewohnt, die Namen in chi schen Schriftzeichen zu sehen. Sc ken sie viel wilder. Auch das N wort war übersetzt, und mein l Papi und ich sprechen Chines sehr interessant. Vielen Dank a Übersetzer!

In letzter Zeit gehe ich wie mei ter im besten Mannesalter voll meiner Arbeit auf, aber neulich mich die Autorin Sakura Hanago (ja, staunt nur!) zum Konzert eine wissen Band eingeladen. Weil ihren Namen hier angebe, lasse den Namen der Band weg, um sverständnisse zu vermeiden. Wir ren in der ersten Reihe. Es waren Platze und ich ließ mich von den a ren anstecken und fieberte mit. das lange Stehen und Rumspri hatte seinen Preis, denn am nach Tag hatte ich Muskelkater. Lie daran, dass ich keinen Sport tre Ich hatte auch einen kleinen Ku schock. Eigentlich gehe ich nur Takarazuka-Theater. Und auch da ich seit dem Abgang von Frau Te ein seltener Gast.

Meine letzten Kinobesuche w »Der Glöckner von Notre Dame« »Mission Impossible«. In »Der Gl ner von Notre Dame« habe ich mi den Darsteller des Bösewichts F verliebt, der Mann ist gut! Wer Film nicht gesehen hat, sollte sich mindest das Video ansehen.

Bei »Mission Impossible« gefiel ebenfalls der Bosewicht (den Rol namen habe ich vergessen) Reno♥. Ich mochte ihn schon als steller von »Leon«... er sieht toll Sein Blick ist so merkwürdig li aber er spielt nur Bosewichte.

Ich liebe glamouröse Figuren

Nachwort

Ich danke euch vielmals, dass ihr Band 6 auch gekauft haben. Die Story nahert sich jetzt ihrem Höhepunkt. Durch Charon wird die Geschichte gefährlicher, aber lest bitte weiter!

Als Serie in »Fan-Dera« hatte dieser Band den Untertitel »Der Prinz aus der Unterwelt«. Damit war Charon gemeint, aber vielleicht wäre »Der Gaukler aus der Unterwelt« passender gewesen... Er wird sicher ein Charakter, an dem sich die Meinungen klar scheiden. Mir macht seine Entwicklung Spaß, wie gefällt er euch? Hier verrate ich den nächsten Untertitel: »Der Engel mit einem Flügel«!

Übrigens habe ich entdeckt, dass Laures in dem Manga-Newsmagazin »Paff« besprochen wurde! In den Briefen wird oft geschrieben, das »Seimaden« ein Gesprächsthema unter Freunden ist... Ich erhalte Briefe von wildfremden Leuten, die es lesen und etwas dabei empfinden und mit zahlreichen anderen darüber sprechen. Dass mein Schreibtisch voller Radierkrümel zum Ausgangspunkt wird und viele Leute erreicht, diese Tatsache berührt mich tief. Ich danke euch von ganzem Herzen. Aber ich fühle auch eine Verantwortung für das, was ich schreibe. Ich bin noch unerfahren, aber durch Versuch und Irrtum möchte ich immer wieder anecken und lernen, etwas Gutes zu schreiben. Für alle, die mich unterstützen... nein, für mich selbst!

He, Higuri, was ist mit dir los?! Du bist ja auf einmal so ernst... Hat irgendein Geist von dir Besitz ergriffen?!

Übrigens ist neulich vom Touryuu-Verlag aus Taiwan ein chinesisches Ansichtsexemplar eingetroffen. Die

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ER SOLL AUSSEHEN WIE EIN HALB STARKER VON FRÜHER
STARK VERDÜNNT
GANZ PASSEND, EINE YANKEE-HILDA!

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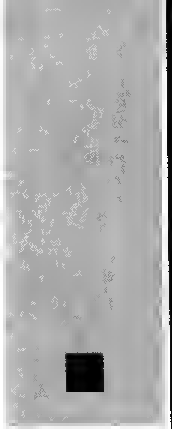

ZUGABE:
SCHLIESS DIE AUGEN
DU SOLLST MICH NICHT SO SEHEN.
ACHONBURIKE*
DRÜCK
*DIESE GESTE STAMMT AUS DEM MANGA »BLACK JACK« VON OSAMU TEZUKA. WO EIN KLEINES MÄDCHEN DIE GESTE MACHT, WENN SIE ETWAS VERPATZT HAT
ICH LIE- BE- EUCH
LAU- RES

IRGENDWIE WAR EINE SEITE ÜBER. DESHALB DIESMAL DREI SEITEN! HIER KOMMT NOCH EINE LEGENDÄRE GESCHICHTE.

Als ich Band 5 »Die Blütenkrone der Finsternis« zeichnete, gingen mir die Pferde durch. Die Assistenten haben es schnell kopiert. Hier ist das verlorene dritte Bild auf Seite 172!

Was mich da wohl geritten hat ... Vergleicht es mit der richtigen Fassung in Band 5!!

Mein Dank gilt meiner Kumpanin Ryoka Oda, die mit mir durch Dick und Dünn bis hin zur Explosionsgefahr geht, meinen Assistenten Kazuho Kaijin, Waka Miyakoashi, Kanako Hikita, Mona Fujikata, Naoko Nakatsuji, Hitomi Watatsumi, Makoto Hondou, Seiko Nyogetsusha, sie erinnert ein wenig an Leon, ich lobe sie hiermit, weil ich ihr immer Mühe bereite. Dem für mich zuständigen Herrn A. und allen meinen Lesern, die dieses Buch gekauft haben.

Dann bis zum nächsten Band 7♥!

✝ E N D